# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TEXTILES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2911
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
IMPORT DUTY ON ANGORA HAIR
RAMSHETH THAKUR;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

**Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:**

(a) Whether import duty on Angora hair has been slashed from 55% to 18% resulting in increase of import of Angora;

(b) If so, whether this import has driven the Angora rabbit farmers of the country out of business;

(c) If so, whether Angora rabbit farmers and several political leaders have urged the Government to increase the rate of customs duty upto 50% on import of fine hair of Angora rabbits; and

(d) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) The import duty on fine animal hair (not carded or combed) has been reduced from 52% in 1996 97 to 21.16% in 2000-01. The import of Angora wool during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 is as follows:-

| Year | Quantity (In MT) | Unit Value (Rs/Kg) |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 171.00 | 207 |
| 1997-98 | 17.00 | 574 |
| 1998-99 | 8.32 | 527 |
| 1999-2000 (April-Sept.99) | 8.80 | 652 |

Source: DGCIS, Calcutta

It is seen from the above table that despite reduction in customs duty the import of Angora wool has declined substantially.

(b) & (c) No Sir, this Ministry does not have any specific report that Angora rabbit farmers of the country are quitting the business. A communication has been received from one of the members of Union Council of Ministers for restoration of customs duty on fine animal hair of Angora rabbit to 50%.

(d) Indian Woollen Apparel Industry is dependent largely on imports of raw wool as the domestic production of raw wool is insufficient and used mainly in manufacture of carpets. The shortfall of raw wool for woollen garments and fabric is met mainly out of imports. The import duty had been fixed at the current level keeping in mind factors such as cost competitiveness of Indian Industry, capacity of production, quantity of domestic production, demand, etc.